

Message Text

SECRET

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEA-10 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

AID-20 COME-00 PRS-01 AGR-20 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 EB-11 MC-02 ACDA-19 GAC-01

MBFR-03 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /181 W
----- 053460

R 121715 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8747

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

SECRET SECTION 1 OF 2 RABAT 1673

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT MASS XF MO

SUBJ: ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM' S SECOND MEETING WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER BENHIMA

1. SUMMARY: BENHIMA REITERATES GOM DESIRE FOR EXPANDED
US MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID ; DISCUSSES HELSINKI CONFER-
ENCE, ATTITUDES OF ALGERIA, TUNISIA AND MOROCCO TOWARD
MEDITERRANEAN, SAYS GOM GRAVELY CONCERNED OVER MIDDLE
EAST. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 11 ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM AND I HAD A
WRAP- UP MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BENHIMA LATE IN
THE AFTERNOON.

3. BENHIMA SAID THAT REGIONAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENTS WERE MOROCCO' S TWO PRINCIPAL CONCERNS
AND THE AREAS IN WHICH HE THOUGHT US AND MOROCCO SHOULD
CONCENTRATE THEIR RELATIONS. MOROCCO COULD EXERT MORE
INFLUENCE ON ITS FRIENDS IN THE REGION IF IT HAD MORE
RESOURCES; IT WAS DISQUIETING THAT BOTH LIBYA AND
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ALGERIA WERE MOVING INTO MAURITANIA; MOROCCO DID NOT LIKE IDEA OF HAVING ALGERIA BOTH TO NORTH AND SOUTH OF IT.

4. BENHIMA SAID THAT IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO GET US HELICOPTERS AT PRICES CHEAPER THAN THOSE MENTIONED IN STATE 065170, MOROCCO WOULD TAKE US INSTEAD OF SOVIET HELICOPTERS. COLONEL KABBAJ WAS IN PROCESS OF ASCERTAINING PRICES OF SOVIET MACHINES. MOROCCO ALSO WANTED TO GET PATROL BOATS FROM US AND WOULD LIKE INFORMATION AS TO AVAILABILITY THEREOF. (PLEASE ADVISE .)

5. BENHIMA THEN ASKED HOW LONG NEWSOM THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE FOR US TO COMPLETE DETAILED STUDY OF POINTS HE HAD RAISED IN WASHINGTON. HE SAID THAT BY JUNE MOROCCO WOULD NEED TO COMPLETE AN INVENTORY OF ITS MILITARY NEEDS AND OF ITS PLANS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

6. NEWSOM SAID HE LEAVING RABAT WITH CLEAR APPRECIATION OF NEED FOR FOLLOW- THROUGH ON WHAT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BY MURPHY MISSION, BENHIMA VISIT, AND HIS OWN VISIT TO RABAT; THESE CONTACTS WERE IMPORTANT BUT RESULTS EVEN MORE SO. HE WOULD STRESS IN WASHINGTON THAT WE HAVE NOW FULL APPRECIATION OF THOUGHTS AND CONCERNS OF KING AND GOM AND A CLARIFICATION OF CONTEXT OF OUR RELATIONS AS MOROCCANS SEE IT; MOROCCANS FOR THEIR PART HAVE SHOWN COMPREHENSION OF OUR PROBLEMS AND LIMITATIONS. IN MILITARY FIELD, EVEN IF WE ARE UNABLE TO DO BIG THINGS, PERHAPS BY PROVIDING SUCH ITEMS AS HELICOPTERS AND PATROL BOATS WE CAN FURNISH ALTERNATIVE ON ACCEPTABLE TERMS TO SOVIET OFFERS; HE UNDERSTOOD THESE ITEMS TO BE FIRST GOM PRIORITY.

7. WITH REGARD TO ECONOMIC AID, NEWSOM CONTINUED, WE AWAIT NEW MOROCCAN FIVE YEAR PLAN. WHEN WE RECEIVE IT WE WILL ESTABLISH CONTACTS TO DISCUSS DETAILS AND SEE HOW WE CAN PARTICIPATE; HE NOTED WE HAD MENTIONED DURING HIS VISIT EXISTING \$10 MILLION AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN OFFER AND NEW PL 480 AGREEMENT.

8. NEWSOM ASSUMED THAT WHEN KING SPEAKS OF US AND MOROCCO AS ASSOCIATES HE ENVISAGES ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECRET

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STRUCTURE FACILITATING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US OF WORLD

PROBLEMS AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. NEWSOME FELT EXCHANGES GOING WELL IN INTELLIGENCE FIELD; US WILL TRY SUPPLEMENT THIS BY EXCHANGES BETWEEN BENHIMA AND AMERICAN AMBASSADOR RE MATTERS OF SPECIAL INTEREST. NEWSOM ENCOURAGED BOTH BENHIMA AND AMBASSADOR SENOSSI TO BRING UP MATTERS THEY CONSIDERED IMPORTANT.

9. THERE WERE THUS THREE AREAS TO WORK IN- MILITARY AID, ECONOMIC AID, AND CONSULTATION. NEWSOM STRESSED INTENTION OF USG TO MAINTAIN CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH GOM AND TO FOLLOW RECENT CONTACTS THROUGH TO BEST POSSIBLE RESULTS; HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT ALL COUNTRIES HAVE BUREAUCRACIES AND SAID THAT PERHAPS BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS MAY CAUSE DELAY IN US RESPONSES; THIS DID NOT MEAN WE HAVE LOST INTEREST; PERHAPS THERE MIGHT BE DELAYS ON GOM SIDE AS WELL. WE WOULD ATTEMPT GIVE GOM PROGRESS REPORTS; WE DESIRED TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM.

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEA-10 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

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10. BENHIMA ASKED WHAT NEWSOM THOUGHT OF CONCEPT THAT NON- EUROPEAN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES SHOULD TAKE PART IN HELSINKI CONFERENCE. NEWSOM THOUGHT ALGERIA HAS

TWO OBJECTIVES IN ADVANCING THIS IDEA-- TO ALLAY ITS FEAR THAT SOMEONE WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS IN MEDITERRANEAN WITHOUT CONSULTING ALGERIA, AND A DESIRE TO INFLUENCE FUTURE OF MEDITERRANEAN ESPECIALLY REGARDING PRESENCE OF BIG POWERS. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT THAT OF LATE ALGERIANS NOT SO SURE THEY WANT SIXTH FLEET TO LEAVE MEDITERRANEAN. TUNISIANS HAVE PROBLEMS WITH ITALY AND A STRONG SENSE OF BELONGING BOTH TO EUROPE AND AFRICA.

11. NEWSOM SAID HE FELT HELSINKI CONFERENCE SHOULD FIRST DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF NORTHERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE. PERHAPS MEDITERRANEAN COULD BE DISCUSSED LATER. BENHIMA COMMENTED THAT RUSSIANS HAD SAID PRECISELY SAME THING TO HIM WHILE HE RECENTLY IN MOSCOW. HE THOUGHT ALGERIA AND TUNISIA WANT TO SET UP AN AFRICAN MEDITERRANEAN GROUP TO DEAL WITH COMMON MARKET INDEPENDENT OF US AND USSR. MOROCCO HOWEVER HAD BEEN HESITANT IN THIS REGARD; FOR EXAMPLE IT DID NOT WANT EUROPEANS TO TAKE UP ME
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PROBLEM, THUS ADULTERATING US AND USSR INFLUENCE ON IT, SINCE GOM DID NOT THINK EUROPEANS READY FOR SUCH ROLE. ALGERIANS AND TUNISIANS HAD THIS IDEA, HOWEVER.

12. BENHIMA COMMENTED THAT TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER MASMOUKI, WHO NEVER BEFORE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ARABS AND MOSLEM WORLD, NOW WANTS TO INGRATiate HIMSELF WITH LIBYANS AND OTHER ARABS TO GET MONEY FROM THEM. MOROCCO DOES NOT WISH TO COMPROMISE ITS POSITION IN MEDITERRANEAN.

13. TURNING TO YUGOSLAVIA, BENHIMA ASSERTED TITO INCREASINGLY ISOLATED WITH DISAPPEARANCE MANY OF HIS OLD NONALIGNED FREINDS; HE HAS FAILED IN HIS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE SOLUTION OF MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT AND NOW WISHES TO PLAY ROLE IN MEDITERRANEAN BY ENTERING NONALIGNED MEDITERRANEAN BLOC. MOROCCO INTENDED TO REACTIVATE ITS RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA.

14. BENHIMA ASKED WHERE NEWSOM THOUGHT SITUATION STOOD ON MIDDLE EAST. NEWSOM REPLIED THAT WE AWAITING SOME SIGN FROM ONE OR ANOTHER OF PARTIES THAT RENEWAL OF US OR SOME OTHER INITIATIVE WOULD BE WELCOME AND MIGHT HAVE SOME CHANCES OF BRINGING RESULTS. OUR IMPRESSION AFTER VISITS TO WASHINGTON OF HUSSEIN, ISMAIL AND MRS. MEIR IS THAT PARTIES ARE LOCKED IN RIGID POSITIONS WITH NO NEW IDEAS. IT IS VERY HARD FOR US TO PRESS ISRAEL TO BE FLEXIBLE IF NO SIGN OF FLEXIBILITY SHOWN BY ARABS; WE CONTINUE TO ENVISAGE SOLUTION VIA WITHDRAWAL BY ISRAEL

FROM MOST OF OCCUPIED LANDS PRECEDED PERHAPS BY
INTERIM AGREEMENT ON CANAL; BUT EVEN LATTER IS NOT
POSSIBLE UNLESS THERE IS SOME SIGN OF WILLINGNESS
TO PROCEED TO NEXT STEPS. WE HAVE NO DOUBT OF
SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION AND OF NEED FOR SOLUTION
AND KEEP LOOKING FOR BASIS FOR OUR INITIATIVE.

15. BENHIMA SAID MOROCCANS GRAVELY WORRIED ABOUT
MIDDLE EAST WHICH IS SOURCE OF SERIOUS INSTABILITY
IN ARAB STATES.

16. NEWSOM MENTIONED OUR CONCERN OVER ACTIVITIES OF
BLACK SEPTEMBER ORGANIZATION. DEEDS OF PALESTINIAN
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MILITANTS REPRESENTED KIND OF TRAGEDY FOR ARABS IN
US. THERE WAS MUCH ANGER WITHIN USG OVER TRAGEDY AT
KHARTOUM, WHICH REFLECTED IN OUR ATTITUDE ON ME PROBLEM.
MEANS MUST BE FOUND, HE THOUGHT, TO CONVINCE THESE
MOVEMENTS THAT THEY ARE DESTROYING ARAB IMAGE. NOW
PALESTINIANS ARE PUTTING OUT ANOTHER BIG LIE ABOUT US
INVOLVEMENT IN ISRAELI RAID IN BEIRUT WHICH SIMILAR
TO LIE ARABS PUT OUT IN '67 CAUSING SO MUCH DAMAGE.
ROCKWELL

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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